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PP RUEHDBU
DE RUEHNT #1216 1830438
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8076
INFO RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 3117
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 9255
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 3731
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 3593

CONFIDENTIAL TASHKENT 001216

STPDTS

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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/CEN AND DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/02/2017

TAGS: PREL PHUM UZ

SUBJECT: CDA URGES FM NOROV TO REVERSE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

ACCREDITATION DECISION

REF: A. TASHKENT 1146

**1B.** TASHKENT 1152

Classified By: CDA Brad Hanson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Charge raised the Government of Uzbekistan's decision to deny accreditation to an AmCit Human Rights Watch staff member (reftels) with Foreign Minister Norov on the margins of Ambassador John Hanford's June 26 meeting (septel). Charge noted that the government's decision leaves Human Rights Watch without any accredited expatriate staff in Uzbekistan, and effectively shuts down the organization's office. Charge said that the decision sends the wrong message about Uzbekistan's commitment to human rights and should be reversed. Norov provided no substantive response. HANSON